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LETTER DATED 16 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea dated 12 September 1996.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) KIM Hyong U
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

96-24249 (E) 160996 170996

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Annex

Statement of the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea dated 12 September 1996

According to south Korean media reports, the United States of America has recently been bringing into south Korea its war equipment, including tanks, armoured vehicles and communications equipment enough for a brigade, for the purpose of rapidly arming reinforcements to be sent to south Korea in the "event of contingency" on the Korean peninsula.

Simulating the "event of contingency", the United States military authorities are now openly shipping large quantities of military equipment into south Korea at a time when the United States Administration has failed, on one excuse or another, to implement its obligation, such as easing of economic sanctions under the Democratic People's Republic of Korea/United States Agreed Framework. It requires little penetration to see what it means.

In its negotiations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States has made many efforts to persuade the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its willingness to improve the Democratic People's Republic of Korea/United States relations and peace on the Korean peninsula.

However, indications today are that our constant distrust of the United States is not wrong.

Even after the Democratic People's Republic of Korea/United States Agreed Framework was signed, the United States has taken every opportunity and possibility systematically to carry out its arms build-up in south Korea in a planned way.

Over the past 40 odd years since the war in Korea, the United States has brought into south Korea large quantities of military equipment and war supplies, including nuclear weapons. And this year alone, it added hundreds of multi-purpose high-speed vehicles, "Abrams" tanks used in the Gulf war and the latest type of helicopters to south Korean-based United States forces.

Still unsatisfied with such additional deployment, they are openly reserving their war equipment for the purpose of arming reinforcement forces which will be dispatched from the United States mainland in case of the "event of contingency". And this in itself gives the conclusion that the United States military authorities, encouraged by conservatives, have obviously finalized a plan to unleash another war on the Korean peninsula such as the Gulf war and pushed ahead with its preparations at the final stage.

The present situation makes us feel deeply again how hypocritical the United States authorities' third-rate commitments to "peace on the Korean peninsula" and "observance of the Armistice Agreement" are.

It also hardens our thoughts that the United States has ignored our just roposal for the conclusion of a new interim agreement to replace the old rmistice Agreement in the hope of winning time to push ahead with war preparations.

We have always exercised the utmost vigilance against the United States' double game.

Furthermore, it should not go unnoticed that the United States' shipments of sophisticated military equipment into south Korea is timed to coincide with its recent missile attack on Iraq.

It is only too natural for us to keep ourselves fully ready to cope with the present situation at the time when the United States bellicose forces are resorting ever more to military means in the settlement of international problems.

We will continue to follow closely every single movement of the United States military authorities and to cope rapidly with it with proper steps.